



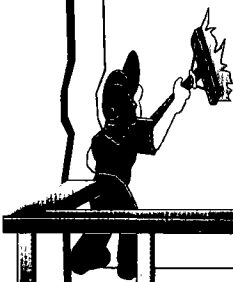
Headquarters Policy Flash

FLASH 2001-04

DATE: February 9, 2001
TO: Procurement Directors
FROM: Office of Procurement and Assistance Policy, MA-51
Office of Procurement and Assistance Management

SUBJECT: **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Electronic and Information
Technology Accessibility**

SUMMARY: On January 22, 2001, a proposed rule was published in the Federal Register (66 FR 7166) to revise the FAR to incorporate the Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) Standards developed by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (an independent Federal Agency popularly referred to as the "Access Board"). The EIT Accessibility Standards were developed pursuant to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.



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- (A) Section 508 required the Access Board to publish standards setting forth a definition of EIT and the technical and functional performance criteria necessary for accessibility for such technology.
- (B) The rule proposes the following:
 - 1. Adds a definition for EIT; and
 - 2. Incorporates the Standards developed by the Access Board in FAR Parts 7, 10, 11, and 39 (new subpart to the FAR).
- (C) The Office of Procurement and Assistance Management is currently participating in an internal DOE working group led by the CIO's Office to guide the Department's implementation of Standards formed by the Access board. Also, we are taking part in a Federal EIT Accessibility Initiative sponsored by GSA. DOE implementing guidance will be issued following publication of the final rule amending the FAR.

The proposed rule can be downloaded from the Federal Register website at:
<http://www.arnet.gov/far/mailframe.html>, click on "Other Information - FAR proposed rules."

Written comments should be submitted to Denise P. Wright, Office of Procurement and Assistance Policy, no later than February 21, 2001. Comments may be faxed to (202) 586-0545 or via e-mail to denise.wright@pr.doe.gov. For additional information please contact Ms. Wright on (202) 586-6217.


John R. Bashista, Acting Director

cc: PPAG Members